(b) what steps Government have taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) The NGOs had stated that the exclusion zone of 750 metres proposed by the project proponent is inadequate, apprehending the safety of the people in the adjoining area in the event of an accident.

(b) Project proponent has been asked to amplify their EIA Report and Disaster Management Plan and not to finalise the design and material of the LNG storage facilities as well as the layout and proposed exclusion zone until the related issues are examined and approved by the Ministry.

Visit of Australian team to New Delhi on waste disposal

1081. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an Australian Team visited New Delhi in October this year to discuss and sign an agreement on waste disposal;

(b) if so, whether the team had to go back, without signing any agreement, for the Government's stand not to import any waste till it tabulate the waste generated locally; and

(c) whether any policy on import and use of waste has been evolved, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) An Australian team visited the Ministry of Environment and Forests in October this year to discuss the issues of import of hazardous wastes destined for recycling and recovery and not on disposal in India. No agreement was scheduled to be signed, and so none was signed. The discussions were mainly on the present hazardous waste regulations of both the countries and the implications of Decision II|12 of the Second Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal. According to this decision all transboundary movement of hazardous wastes from OECD to non-OECD States destined for final disposal is prohibited with immediate effect and those destined for recycling or recovery operations are to be phased out and prohibited from 31 December, 1997, Both India and Australia are parties to the Basel Convention.

(c) The Government of India have notified the Hazardous Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules, 1989 under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, which provides for regulating the generation, collection, storage, transport, treatment, disposal and import of hazardous wastes. According to Rule 11 of these rules import of hazardous wastes from any country to India is not permitted for dumping and disposal. However, import of such wastes may be allowed for processing or reuse as raw materials, after examining each case on merit. Any import of hazardous wastes would come under the purview of these regulations.